



# Assistive Technology Update

Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation

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## **874K Advocacy Coalition Revives Legislative Breakfast Gubernatorial Candidates Invited to Attend**

The 874K Coalition is reviving the Legislative Breakfast in 2007. The event offers individuals with disabilities, their family members, advocates, and service providers an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with Kentucky's lawmakers over breakfast. Most of the state's legislators attend and all announced gubernatorial candidates have been invited to speak at a brief program after the breakfast. This year's breakfast will be held on Wednesday, February 7, at the Frankfort Convention Center and will begin at 8:30 am, EST.

was first held in the early nineties by the Kentucky Disabilities Coalition and was a biennial event for over a decade.

Anyone interested in services for Kentuckians with disabilities should attend.

The 874K Coalition is a group of advocacy organizations, service providers, and other interested parties supporting the principles of self-determination for individuals with disabilities. It draws its name from the fact that the 2000 Census indicated there were 874,156 individuals with disabilities residing in the state at the time, better than 23 percent of the total population.

### **874K Advocacy Coalition Schedule of Events Wednesday February 7, 2007**

- 8:00 a.m.** – Assemble in Frankfort Convention Center
- 8:30 a.m.** – Breakfast and dialogue with legislators and policy-makers
- 9:30 a.m.** – Gubernatorial Candidates' Forum Begins  
Candidates are questioned about Disability Issues -  
Health Care, Housing, Transportation, Education, Employment, Rights
- 10:20 a.m.** – Gubernatorial Candidates' Forum Ends
- 10:30 a.m.** – Advocacy Event Adjourns



The Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities has funding available for organizations and individuals to underwrite the cost of transportation, overnight lodging in Frankfort, the

breakfast, attendant care, and other costs associated with attendance. **THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING IS JANUARY 19TH!!**

Consumer and family organizations may also apply for support from the Consumer Involvement Fund. The appropriate forms for registering and applying for assistance can be found in the news section of the KATLC website:

<http://www.katlc.ky.gov>.

This will be the first legislative breakfast since 2003. The breakfast



# The National Assistive Technology Advocacy Project

## Information Available on Assistive Technology Funding

Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc. operates the National Assistive Technology Advocacy Project through a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. The Project supports the advocacy efforts of attorneys, advocates, service agencies, persons with disabilities and their families as they seek funding for AT services and devices. This project primarily directs its nationwide support services to the network of Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and Client Assistance Program attorneys and advocates who are working on assistive technology advocacy issues. It also provides support services to Legal Services and Legal Aid programs and to attorneys in the private bar if they are working on AT-related issues. The Project's website contains a great deal of information and tips on obtaining funding from various sources including Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, local education agencies, and vocational rehabilitation, among others.

The website is: <http://www.nls.org/natmain.htm>

### **KATLC Exhibit and Conference Appearances Come Visit with the KATLC Staff!**

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) will have an exhibit at two local conferences. The staff will be more than willing to answer any questions and accept comments and/or suggestions regarding the KATLC program. If you are attending, please stop by and say hello!

#### **Convention on Communication Disorders "50 Magical Years of Communication"**

Hosted by:

The Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association

The Lexington Convention Center  
Lexington, Kentucky

February 28 - March 3, 2007

**AND**

#### **"The 21st Annual Parent/Professional Conference"**

Hosted by:

The Fayette/Jessamine County  
Parent Resource Centers  
The Kentucky Department of Education

Marriott Griffin Gate Resort

Lexington, Kentucky

March 2 - 4, 2007

Contact Nanci Shelden or Sarah Richardson  
for more information regarding these conferences.

### **Featured Assistive Technology Device The SpeechEasy: A True Fluency Device**

Despite being featured on 'Oprah' and other national television shows, the 'SpeechEasy' communication device remains relatively unknown. The SpeechEasy has the potential to build confidence in individuals with a stuttering problem. "Stuttering is a communication disorder involving disruptions in a person's speech", according to the National Stuttering Association (NSA).

The manufacturers at [www.speecheasy.com](http://www.speecheasy.com), explain that the "SpeechEasy is a proven fluency tool used to reduce stuttering and to help increase fluency." The device is worn similar to a hearing aid and is considered to be very inconspicuous (see picture above). The NSA further clarifies that the SpeechEasy uses Delayed Altered Auditory Feedback (DAF) or Frequency Altered Feedback (FAF) in the ear canal in order to increase the person's speech fluency.

As with all assistive technology devices, the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) encourages all applicants to research other types and brands of AT devices to find what best meets the needs of the individual. Other anti-stuttering devices include the Fluency Master and the Edinburgh Masker.



Photo Courtesy of  
<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/csd/speecheasy.cfm>

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) offers low interest loans through its lending partner Fifth Third Bank for qualified applicants who need any type of equipment or home modification that will increase a person's mobility or enable them to become more independent.

For more information or to receive an application call Sarah Richardson or Nanci Shelden toll free at 1-877-675-0195.

*Update* is a publication of the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC).

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(Nanci Shelden, editor)

